

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1116

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, EAID, TP

SUBJ: COURTESY CALLS ON SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE MINISTERS

REF: LIBREVILLE 1291

1. SUMMARY: DURING MAY 24-27 VISIT SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (STP) AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY DCM AND PAO PAID COURTESY CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION AS WELL AS THOSE ON PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED SEPARATELY. RECEPTION UNIFORMLY FRIENDLY WITH EACH MINISTER MAKING PLEA FOR SOME FORM OF ADDITIONAL USG ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER TROVOADA ARRANGED PRIOR TO CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY. PRIME MINISTER REITERATED FAMILIAR THEME THAT GSTP AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCREDIT A STP DIPLOMAT TO WASHINGTON AND TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS BUT UNFORTUNATELY LACKED SUFFICIENT TRAINED CADRE TO DO EITHER AT PRESENT TIME. HE THEN GAVE THOROUGH AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF STP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDING APPROPRIATE THANKS FOR OUR SMALL CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROJECT WHICH IS BEING ADMINISTERED JOINTLY WITH A SIMILAR

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NETHERLANDS PROJECT. TROVOADA ENDED UP WITH A STRONG PITCH FOR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING STP BREAK ITS NUMBER ONE DEVELOPMENT BOTTLENECK - LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH REST OF WORLD AS WELL AS WITH PRINCIPE. HE SUGGESTED INTER ALIA ASSISTANCE FOR LENGTHENING SAO TOME AIRPORT; ASSISTANCE IN PILOT TRAINING; ASSISTANCE IN SECURING AIRCRAFT AND OR ASSISTANCE IN SECURING ONE OR MORE SURFACE

VESSELS. WHILE EMPHASIZING HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO MAKE COMMITMENTS, AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT WE WILLING STUDY ANY REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT STP WISHED PUT FORWARD BUT NOTED THAT UNDER CURRENT LEGISLATION, ASSISTANCE TENDED TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD HELPING PROVIDE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

3. CONVERSATION WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER HENRIQUE PINTO DA COSTA CONCERNED PRIMARILY DETAILS OF CROP PRODUCTION PROJECT WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD VISITED JUST PRIOR TO MEETING. DA COSTA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SENDING STP TECHNICIANS TO IITA FOR CORN AND RICE TRAINING DURING CURRENT DRY SEASON. HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD HOPED TRANSMIT THIS INFORMATION TO MOST RECENT IITA EXPERT WHO HAD VISITED SAO TOME IN EARLY MAY BUT LATTER HAD DEPARTED DAY EARLY CANCELLING SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER. WE UNDERTOOK COMMITMENT ATTEMPT ARRANGE TRAINING WITH IITA PER GSTP DESIRES. MINAG ALSO STATED MATERIAL ORDERED UNDER PROJECT HAD NOT YET ARRIVED AND EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE IT WOULD BE ON HAND FOR SEPTEMBER PLANTING SEASON AS EXPANSION OF FOOD CROP PRODUCTION INVOLVED CLEARING NEW LAND WITH MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT. COMMENTRK ALTHOUGH WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT RESIDENT DUTCH TECHNICIANS HELP IN SUPERVISION AID PROJECT, IT APPARENT GSTP FINDS INTERMITTENT VISITS BY IITA UNSATISFACTORY AND FRUSTRATING MEANS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. END COMMENT.

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4. MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND JUSTICE, CELESTINO DE COSTA, PROVIDED GENERAL DESCRIPTION EDUCATION PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES PRACTICAL WORK EXPERIENCE DURING HOLIDAYS FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS PRIMARILY IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR USG INDEPENDENCE GIFT WHICH ENABLED SEVERAL STP STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN US, KENYA, PORTUGAL AND PUERTO RICO AND SEEMED SATISFIED WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT OF GRANT. MINED REPEATED EARLIER REQUEST FOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WHICH PAO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED REFTEL 1291, ALL THREE MINISTERS WERE FRIENDLY AND FRANK IN DISCUSSING PROBLEMS. EACH SAID THEY "OPEN" TO AMBASSADOR AND HIS COLLEAGUES FOR DISCUSSION OF ANY MATTER OR FOR VISIT ANYWHERE DESIRED. ALL SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED TO HAVE RENEWED CONTACT WITH USG OFFICIALS AND CLEARLY HOPED THAT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE AMONG RESULTING BENEFITS. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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